Rehabilitation of Mentally ill Persons

659. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ever made any efforts to find out the number of mentally ill persons in the country since they are enjoying the citizenship;

(b) if so, the number of such persons, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to rehabilitate them and is also, considering proper legislation for helping them; and

(d) if not, the reasons for such indifference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Epidemiological studies conducted under the aegis of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare during 2002-05 indicate that 1 to 2% of the total population suffer from severe mental disorders, and 5 to 7% suffer from minor metal disorders. State-wise date is not available.

(c) The Mental Health Act, 1987, has provisions regarding treatment of persons with mental illness. Likewise, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, has provisions regarding rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, including those suffering from mental illness.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare supplements State Governments' efforts through District Mental Health Programme, Strengthening of Psychiatric Wings of Medical Colleges/General Hospitals and Modernization/Upgradation of Mental Hospitals to make them as therapeutic units.

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment provides assistance to NGOs for providing rehabilitation services to persons with-disabilities, including persons with mental illness, by way of setting up Vocational Training Centres, Home-based Rehabilitation, and Community-based Rehabilitation etc. In addition, assistance is also given to run Half Way Homes for mentally ill persons.

(d) Does not arise.

Reports on working of safeguards for SCs and STs

660. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about the constitutional provisions under Article 338(5) (d) regarding reports upon the working of safeguards for SCs and STs;

(b) when was the last report submitted by the National Commission for SC and ST;

(c) whether there was any discussion on such report during 2004 to 2008; and

(d) if not, the action proposed by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Yes, Sir.